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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Bruno BORSOI)
Appln. No. : 09/986,305) Group Art Unit 3764
Filed : November 8, 2001) Examiner Not Yet Known
For : JOINT PROTECTIVE ARTICLE)

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Pursuant to the duty of disclosure set forth in 37 CFR 1.56 and in accordance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98, the following information is brought to the attention of the Examiner for his or her consideration during the examination of the instant application.

The following materials were cited in a search report in the French priority application upon which the instant application is based. A copy of the search report and a copy of an annex thereto, indicating "family member" documents, are attached.

For compliance with the "concise explanation" requirement set forth in 37 CFR 1.98(a)(3), consistent with U.S. Patent and Trademark Office policy, Applicant describes below any comments relating to pertinent portions of the respective documents, where such comments appear in the search report.

U.S. Patent No. 5,794,362 (POLK, III et al.), issued on August 18, 1998, is cited as being a document that is particularly pertinent (i.e., a category "X" document) to the invention

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recited in claims 1, 2, 4, 6-9, 14, and 15 Applicant's aforementioned priority application, and as being a document that is pertinent in combination with one or more other such documents (i.e., a category "Y" document) with regard to the invention recited in claims 5 and 10-12 of Applicant's aforementioned priority application. The entirety of US '362 is cited as being pertinent.

International Patent Publication No. WO 81/01644 (SPADEMAN), published on June 25, 1981, is cited as being a document that is particularly pertinent (i.e., a category "X" document) to the invention recited in claims 1, 2, 8, 9, and 16 of Applicant's aforementioned priority application. The entirety of WO '644 is cited as being pertinent.

U.S. Patent No. 4,841,650 (DODGE et al.), issued on June 27, 1989, is cited as being a document that is particularly pertinent (i.e., a category "X" document) to the invention recited in claims 1, 2, 4, 8, and 9 Applicant's aforementioned priority application. The entirety of US '650 cited as being pertinent.

U.S. Patent No. 3,686,778 (HORNUNG), issued on August 29, 1972, is cited as being a document that is particularly pertinent (i.e., a category "X" document) to the invention recited in claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 8, and 9 Applicant's aforementioned priority application. The entirety of US '778 cited as being pertinent.

International Patent Publication No. WO 00/33692 (THE BURTON CORP.), published on June 15, 2000, is cited as being a document that is particularly pertinent (i.e., a category "X" document) to the invention recited in claims 1, 3, 5, 9, and 13 of Applicant's aforementioned priority application. The entirety of WO '692 is cited as being pertinent.

European Patent Publication No. 0 695 515 (TECNICA SpA), published on February 7,

1996, is cited as being a document that is particularly pertinent (i.e., a category "X" document) to the invention recited in claims 1, 3, 8, and 9 of Applicant's aforementioned priority application. The entirety of EP '515 is cited as being pertinent. In addition, EP '515 is pertinent for reasons mentioned in paragraph [0007] of the specification of the instant application.

U.S. Patent No. 5,647,146 (GABRIELLI et al.), issued on July 15, 1997, is cited on the annex of the aforementioned search report as being a family member of EP '515.

U.S. Patent No. 6,006,368 (PHILLIPS), issued on December 28, 1999, is cited as being a document that is pertinent in combination with one or more other such documents (i.e., a category "Y" document) with regard to the invention recited in claim 12 of Applicant's aforementioned priority application. The entirety of US '368 is cited as being pertinent.

PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN, Vol. 1996, No. 9, September 30, 1996, and Japanese Patent Publication No. 08 134705 (HISATOMI:KK), published on May 28, 1996, are cited as being pertinent in combination with one or more other such documents (i.e., a category "Y" document) with regard to the invention recited in claims 5 and 10 of Applicant's aforementioned priority application. The abstract is cited as being pertinent.

U.S. Patent No. 5,695,452 (GRIM et al.), issued on December 9, 1997, is cited as being a document that is pertinent in combination with one or more other such documents (i.e., a category "Y" document) with regard to the invention recited in claim 11 of Applicant's aforementioned priority application. The entirety of US '452 is cited as being pertinent.

U.S. Patent No. 5,334,135 (GRIM et al.), issued on August 2, 1994, is cited on the annex of the aforementioned search report as being a family member of US '452.

In addition to the above-mentioned documents cited in the search report of Applicants' priority application, the following document is brought to the Examiner's attention as being pertinent for reasons cited in the specification of the instant application.

European Patent Publication No. 0 793 983 (BURKHART), published on September 10, 1997, is cited on paragraph [0004] on page 1 of the specification of the instant application.

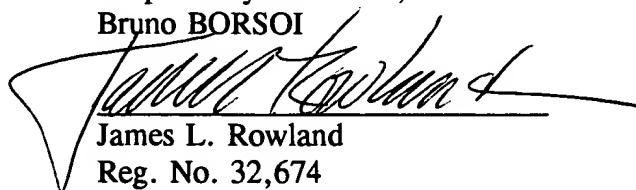
In accordance with 37 CFR 1.98 and MPEP 609, a copy of each of the above-mentioned documents is enclosed herewith. Further, each is listed on the attached PTO-1449 form to permit the Examiner to indicate his or her consideration thereof.

The Examiner is requested to consider the documents cited above and to confirm such consideration by appropriately initialling the listings on the PTO-1449 form and returning a copy of the initialled form to Applicant.

Lastly, the following commonly owned application is brought to the Examiner's attention: U.S. Patent Application No. 09/986,304 (BORSOI et al.), entitled "Upper Reinforcing Element", filed on November 8, 2001.

Any comments or questions concerning this application can be directed to the undersigned at the telephone or fax number given below.

Respectfully submitted,
Bruno BORSOI


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